

REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2010  
ATRIUM CONFERENCE ROOM AT CITY HALL – 500 CASTRO STREET  
7:00 P.M.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Bryant.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Committee Members:** Margaret Abe-Koga, Jac Siegel and Chair Ronit Bryant.

**City Staff Present:** Michael Fuller, Public Works Director; Linda Forsberg, Business and Internal Services Manager; Lori Topley, Solid Waste Program Manager; and Steve Attinger, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.

**3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC—None.**

**4. MINUTES APPROVAL**

Minutes of the November 10, 2009 Council Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC) meeting were approved 3-0.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 OVERVIEW OF CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS**

Staff indicated the Committee members were provided with a table in the staff report listing all of the environmental sustainability projects currently under way. The table provides a high-level summary of each of the projects and the level of resources dedicated to these projects, and staff is prepared to answer questions from the Committee.

In response to questions from the Committee members, staff noted that: (1) with the recent retirement of the Transportation and Policy Manager, fewer resources are available to be devoted to sustainability efforts; (2) no decision has yet been made about which one of three cities being considered for the bike rental program (Palo Alto, Mountain View and San Jose) would be chosen; and (3) updates to the government operations and the community

inventories are needed to measure where we are against the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets recently set by the City.

Another Committee member asked about the status of the single-use bag reduction efforts. Staff explained the release of the San Jose Environmental Impact Report (EIR) had been delayed until some time in June. Staff indicated that an appropriate approach to the question of whether to implement a bag ban ordinance in Mountain View would be evaluated once more information from San Jose is available and the status of the State bag ban legislation is known. Staff is still planning to do the Bring Your Own Bag campaign with Green Mountain View and will be contacting this group soon to determine if volunteers are available.

#### Public Input

Julie Lovins noted that a bill banning single-use bags had just passed out of the Assembly and was now in the Senate.

John Carpenter was concerned about the number of trees that would be lost to the high-speed rail.

David Paradise wondered if any entity was actively working on installing electric car charging stations.

## **5.2 PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE COMMUNITY ENERGY AUDIT AND UPGRADE PROGRAM**

Staff is recommending a change in approach to the Residential Energy Audit and Upgrade Program. This change in focus is based on review of best practices among other agencies and includes shifting the primary focus from Tier 1 instant upgrade audits to Tier 2 and Tier 3 upgrade/retrofits. In addition, instead of the City paying a resident's audit cost up front, staff is leaning toward the financial incentive or financial assistance being tied to actual completion of an upgrade. For multi-family units, the focus would shift from primarily the tenant to the property owner. The details of the program will not be developed until after the responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP) are received and staff can evaluate recommendations from program providers.

#### Public Input

Julie Lovins questioned whether the audit program can be tied in with the existing multi-family housing program as some units are in such poor shape, they need to be first fixed before upgraded. She noted that Tier 1 audits can

be important if they result in appliance replacement, especially in multi-family units. She believes before Tier 2 and Tier 3 audits and upgrades are done, the City needs to encourage and make sure Tier 1 type upgrades are completed.

Bruce Karney stated the faster the program can get moving, the better. A December launch is not good because people are not thinking about home upgrades in the winter. The program should focus on the needs of renters; multi-family property owners may not want to make these kinds of investments. He was also concerned about the number of steps involved to get a reimbursement.

John Carpenter wondered if commonly owned areas of condominium and townhouse associations would be eligible.

Twana Karney is the program manager for the Green@Home program run by Acterra. They have completed 500 Tier 1 audits. Tier 2 and Tier 3 upgrades can be expensive and disruptive to the homeowner, so do not overlook the benefit of Tier 1 audits.

#### Committee Discussion

Committee members expressed some concern about the change in focus from multi-family tenants to property owners, and they would also like to make sure some Tier 1-type audits are still offered. Staff should make sure that tenants are addressed and Tier 1 audits are available. Staff noted that multi-family building owners will be eligible for financing under the CaliforniaFIRST program. The Committee expressed interest in a multilingual outreach program. Assuming that the Tier 1 audit approach remains a part of the program, the Committee expressed support for the revised approach. However, the Committee would like staff to return with the program details prior to the contract award being presented to the full Council.

6. **COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND REPORTS—None.**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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